

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A chair comprising:
 - a seat member having a seat back, a seat bottom and a resiliently deformable intermediate portion connected between said seat back and seat bottom;
 - a bottom support member having a bearing surface slidably supporting said seat bottom thereon;
 - a seat back support member connected to said bottom support member and disposed adjacent said seat back; and
 - a pivot element connected to said seat back support member and pivotably supporting said seat back,whereby said intermediate portion deforms as said seat back pivots about said pivot element and said seat bottom slides along said bearing surface.
2. The chair according to claim 1, wherein said seat member is a one-piece shell.
3. The chair according to claim 1, wherein:
 - said seat back support member includes a support bar spanning at least a portion of said seat back; and
 - said pivot element includes at least one connector projecting from said seat back and configured to pivotably engage said support bar.

4. The chair according to claim 3, wherein said at least one connector includes a hook configured to pivotably engage said support member.

5. The chair according to claim 3, wherein said at least one connector includes a plurality of hooks configured to pivotably engage said support bar.

6. The chair according to claim 5, wherein at least one of said plurality of hooks is configured for snap-fit engagement of said support bar.

7. The chair according to claim 5, wherein at least one of said plurality of hooks defines a stiffening rib extending along a portion of said seat back.

8. The chair according to claim 3, wherein said at least one connector is integral with said seat back.

9. The chair according to claim 3, wherein said at least one connector is a mounting pad defining a recess configured to pivotably engage said support bar.

10. The chair according to claim 3, wherein:
said seat back defines a concavity at least adjacent said support bar; and
said support bar includes substantially linear center section and opposite end sections connected at an angle to said center section so that said support bar accommodates said concavity of said seat back.

11. The chair according to claim 10, wherein said at least one connector includes a first plurality of hooks configured to pivotably engage said center section of said support bar.

12. The chair according to claim 11, wherein said at least one connector includes a second plurality of hooks configured to pivotably engage said opposite end sections of said support bar.

13. The chair according to claim 12, wherein only said first plurality of hooks is configured for snap-fit engagement with said support bar.

14. The chair according to claim 1, wherein said bottom support member includes:

at least one ground-engaging leg; and

at least one rail member connected to and supported by said leg, said at least one rail member defining said bearing surface.

15. The chair according to claim 14, wherein:
said at least one rail member is an elongated bar; and
said seat bottom includes at least one slide block attached thereto, said at least one slide block defining a channel for slidably receiving said elongated bar.

16. The chair according to claim 15, wherein:

said bottom support member includes at least two elongated bars disposed in substantially parallel relation; and

said seat bottom includes at least one slide block corresponding to each of said elongated bars.

17. The chair according to claim 15, wherein said slide block includes:
an upper portion attached to said seat bottom and defining an upper half of said bore;

a lower portion defining a lower half of said bore, said upper half and said lower half combinable to encircle said elongated bar; and

a fastener for connecting said lower portion to said upper portion with said elongated bar within said channel.

18. The chair according to claim 17, wherein said upper portion of said slide block is integral with said seat bottom.

19. The chair according to claim 15, wherein said slide block includes a bushing disposed within said bore.

20. The chair according to claim 15, wherein:
said elongated bar has a first end adjacent said seat back and an opposite second end; and

said bottom support member includes a stop attached to said elongated bar adjacent said second end, said stop configured to limit movement of said slide block toward said second end.

21. The chair according to claim 20, wherein said bottom support member includes a second stop connected to said elongated bar adjacent said first end, said second stop configured to limit movement of said slide block toward said first end.

22. The chair according to claim 21, wherein:
said first stop is connected to said elongated bar on a side of said bar opposite said seat bottom; and
said second stop is connected to said elongated bar on a side of said bar immediately adjacent said seat bottom.

23. The chair according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate portion includes a slack region that is recessed relative to a plane including said seat back.

24. The chair according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate portion has a reduced width less than a largest width of said seat back.

25. The chair according to claim 1, wherein said bottom support member includes a pair of opposite ground-engaging leg members.

26. The chair according to claim 1, wherein said bottom support member includes a ground-engaging pedestal base.

27. A chair comprising:

a one-piece shell including a seat back having an upper end and a lower end, and a seat bottom extending from said lower end of said seat back;

a bottom support member having a bearing surface slidably supporting said seat bottom thereon;

a seat back support member connected to said bottom support member and disposed adjacent said seat back; and

a pivot element connected to said seat back support member and pivotably supporting said seat back between said upper end and said lower end.

28. The chair according to claim 27, wherein said bottom support member includes:

at least one ground-engaging leg; and

at least one rail member connected to and supported by said at least one leg, said at least one rail member defining said bearing surface.

29. The chair according to claim 28, wherein:

said at least one rail member is an elongated bar; and

said seat bottom includes at least one slide block attached thereto, said at least one slide block defining a bore for slidably receiving said elongated bar.

30. The chair according to claim 27, wherein:
said seat back support member includes a support bar spanning at least a portion of said seat back; and
said pivot element includes at least one connector integrally formed with and projecting from said seat back and configured to pivotably engage said support bar.
31. The chair according to claim 30, wherein said at least one connector includes a plurality of hooks configured to pivotably engage said support bar.
32. The chair according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said plurality of hooks is configured for snap-fit engagement of said support bar.
33. The chair according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said plurality of hooks defines a stiffening rib extending along a portion of said seat back.
34. The chair according to claim 27, wherein said seat bottom includes a portion cantilevered beyond said bottom support member.
35. The chair according to claim 34, wherein said bottom support member includes:
a pair of opposite ground-engaging leg members
at least one rail member connected to and supported by said pair of leg members, said at least one rail member defining said bearing surface; and

a transverse member connected between said pair of leg members and providing cantilever support for said portion of said seat bottom.

36. The chair according to claim 35, wherein said seat bottom includes at least one rib defining a sliding surface for sliding contact with said transverse member.

37. The chair according to claim 36, wherein said at least one rib spans said cantilevered portion of said seat bottom and is configured to provide stiffness against bending.

38. A stackable chair comprising:

a seat bottom having a width;

a seat back;

a frame including a generally horizontal bottom support member, a back support member arranged at a substantially 90° angle relative to said bottom support member and opposite leg members supporting said bottom and back support members, said leg members having at least a portion disposed apart a dimension greater than said width of said seat bottom to permit nested stacking of said chair;

means for pivotably mounting said seat back to said back support member;
and

means for slidably supporting said seat bottom on said bottom support member.

39. A chair comprising:
a seat back having an upper portion and a lower portion;
a seat bottom;
a frame connected to and supporting said seat back and said seat bottom,
said frame including;
a substantially horizontal bottom support member slidably supporting
said seat bottom; and
a pivot member pivotably supporting said seat back between said
upper portion and said lower portion to permit pivoting of said seat back
relative to said frame upon application of a force at said upper portion; and
a force transmitting element connected between said lower portion of said
seat back and said seat bottom and responsive to pivoting of said seat back relative
to said frame to apply a force to said seat bottom to slide said seat bottom on said
rail member.

40. The chair according to claim 39, wherein said force transmitting
element is a resiliently deformable slack portion integrally formed between said
seat back and said seat bottom and operable to restore said seat back and said seat
bottom to an original position when the force applied to said upper portion of said
seat back has been removed.

41. The chair according to claim 40, wherein said slack portion exhibits a
first curvature when said seat back and said seat bottom are in the original position

and is deformed to exhibit a different second curvature upon application of the force at said upper portion of said seat back.